GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:338
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006
UNDER WEIGHT LPG CYLINDERS
Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar;Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the supply of lesser weight gas cylinders by various Liquefied Petroleum Gas dealers in the country, especially in rural areas ;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received complaints regarding such cases ; (

(c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise ;

(d) the action taken/being taken against the erring dealers ;

(e) whether the Oil Marketing Companies propose to take some new measures to tackle this malpractice ;

(f) if so, the details thereof ; and

(g) the time by which these measures are likely to be implemented ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (g) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 338 BY SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN AND SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2006 REGARDING UNDER-WEIGHT LPG CYLINDERS.

(a) to (d) : Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported 193 cases of supply of underweight cylinders to consumers by their LPG distributors during the last three years, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, and April-October, 2006.All the erring distributors have been penalized by OMCs in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). The State-wise details are at Annex.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints regarding the supply of underweight cylinders, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) concerned in accordance with the provisions of the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). MDG provides for following action against the distributor :-

Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by OMCs, the Weight and Measures Departments of the State/UT initiate legal action against those believed to be culpable.

(e) to (g) :No, Sir. However, OMCs have reported that their LPG distributors are under instructions to ensure 100% weighment of cylinders at their godown before delivery at the customers` premises. In a bid to enhance customer satisfaction levels, distributors in selected markets have been advised by OMCs to provide a spring balance to enable the customer to verify the correctness of the weight of LPG in the cylinder. OMCs have introduced this scheme in major markets of the country.

The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no pilferage takes place.The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only correct weight cylinders are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under- weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced with a fresh refill cylinder without any charges by the OMCs.

At present, OMCs are using heat shrinkable preformed Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) seals, developed and recommended by the LPG Equipment Research Centre (LERC), as a tamper evident sealing system for LPG cylinders with a view to supplying correct weight of LPG to the consumers.PVC seals are difficult to duplicate, shrink at high temperature and require special technical expertise to manufacture.

ANNEX

THE DETAILS OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY OMCs AGAINST THEIR LPG DISTRIBUTORS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS AND APRIL-OCTOBER, 2006.

Number of complaints States / UTs	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
April-October, 2006- Andhra Pradesh	2	-	-
- Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
- Assam	-	-	-
- Bihar	2	-	1
- Chhattisgarh	-	-	-
- Delhi	7	17	11
- Goa	-	-	-
- Gujarat	11	5	3
- Haryana	1	1	2
- Himachal Pradesh	-	1	-
- Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-
- Jharkhand	-	-	1
- Karnataka	1	-	-
- Kerala	-	-	-
- Madhya Pradesh	4	-	1
- Maharashtra	-	-	1
- Manipur	-	-	-
- Meghalaya	-	-	-
- Mizoram	-	-	-
- Nagaland	-	-	-
- Orissa	-	-	-
- Punjab	1	8	8
- Rajasthan	5	7	4
- Sikkim	-	-	-
- Tamil Nadu	-	-	-
- Tripura	-	-	-
- Uttar Pradesh	20	25	21
- Uttaranchal	2	2	1
- West Bengal	-	-	-
- Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-
- Chandigarh	4	1	4
- Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
- Daman Diu	-	-	-
- Lakshadweep	-	-	-
- Pondicherry	-	-	-
- TOTAL	60	67	58